We claim:

1. An alkylglycol alkoxylate or alkyldiglycol alkoxylate obtainable by alkoxylation of C_{4-8}-alkylglycols or -diglycols with C_{2-5}-alkoxides to an average degree of alkoxylation of from 1 to 8, based on the C_{4-8}-alkylglycols or -diglycols.

2. A mixture of C_{2-5}-alkoxylates of C_{4-8}-alkylglycols –or diglycols which, on average, have a degree of alkoxylation of from 1 to 8 as claimed in claim 1, and surfactants which, dissolved in an amount of 5 g/l of water, exhibit an interfacial tension of less than 45 mN/m at 20°C, and/or dihydroxyalkynes or derivatives thereof.

3. A mixture as claimed in claim 2, wherein the surfactants are nonionic surfactants and are chosen from C_{2-5}-alkoxylates of C_{9-20}-alkanols which, on average, have a degree of alkoxylation of from 3 to 30, and mixtures thereof.

4. A mixture as claimed in claim 2, wherein the surfactants are low-foam or foam-suppressing surfactants.

5. A laundry detergent, cleaner or wetting agent or cosmetic, pharmaceutical or crop protection formulation comprising a mixture as claimed in any of claims 2 to 4 or alkylglycol alkoxylates or alkyldiglycol alkoxylates as claimed in claim 1.

6. A paint, ink formulation, formulation for spray applications, coating composition, adhesive, leather-treatment composition, flotation auxiliary, metal-treatment composition, foaming auxiliary, humectant or textile-treatment composition comprising a mixture as claimed in any of Claims 2 to 4 or alkylglycol alkoxylates or alkyldiglycol alkoxylates as claimed in Claim 1.

7. A mixture as claimed in any of claims 2 to 4 or compositions as claimed in claim 5 or 6, comprising 0.1 to 20% by weight of the C_{2-5}-alkoxylates of

C_{4-8}-alkylglycols or -diglycols, based on the total weight of the mixture or of the composition.

8. The use of C_{2-5}-alkoxylates of C_{4-8}-alkylglycols or -diglycols which, on average, have a degree of alkoxylation of from 1 to 8, as claimed in claim 1, for reducing the interfacial tension and accelerating the establishment of the interfacial tension in aqueous surfactant formulations or aqueous dispersions.

9. The use of C_{2-5}-alkoxylates of C_{4-8}-alkylglycols or -diglycols which, on average, have a degree of alkoxylation of from 1 to 8, as claimed in claim 1, as solubilizers and for increasing the solubility of wetting auxiliaries in aqueous formulations which comprise nonionic surfactants.

10. The use of C_{2-5}-alkoxylates of C_{4-8}-alkylglycols or -diglycols which, on average, have a degree of alkoxylation of from 1 to 8, as claimed in claim 1, for lowering the viscosity of surfactant-containing formulations.

11. The use of C_{2-5}-alkoxylates of C_{4-8}-alkylglycols or -diglycols which, on average, have a degree of alkoxylation of from 1 to 8, as claimed in claim 1, for increasing the wetting rate in aqueous wetting agents.

12. A coating composition as claimed in Claim 6, which is an aqueous formulation which comprises water, pigments, binders and 0.05 to 5% by weight based on the pigments, of a mixture as claimed in any of Claims 2 to 4 or alkylglycol alkoxylates as claimed in Claim 1.

13. A coating composition as claimed in Claim 12, which is a formulation for spray applications.

14. The use of C_{2-5}-alkoxylates of C_{4-8}-alkylglycols or -diglycols which have, on average, a degree of alkoxylation of from 1 to 8 as claimed in Claim 1, for reducing the particle size in formulations for spray applications.